

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 02646 312251Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05

INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /047 W

-----068992 312254Z /46

O R 312239Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 149

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2646

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJECT: BANZER SAID TO FAVOR ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

REF: LA PAZ 2607

1. EMBOFF HAS BEEN INFORMED BY A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT OF THE ALTERNATIVES TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF MILITARY COMMANDERS APRIL 3-4, BANZER FAVORS ONE CALLING FOR (1) POSTPONEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS UNTIL 1980, WITH BANZER REMAINING AS INTERIM PRESIDENT; (2) ELECTION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN 1979 OR EARLIER; (3) IMMEDIATE INSTALLATION OF A CIVILIAN CABINET, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PORTFOLIOS FOR DEFENSE, INTERIOR, AND AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL AFFAIRS, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD BY MILITARY OFFICERS.

2. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OTHER ALTERNATIVES, THIS WILL BE THE SCHEME MOST LIKELY APPROVED. THE REASONS FOR CHANGING THE ELECTORAL TIMETABLE WILL LAY HEAVY STRESS ON PROBLEMS WITH CHILE, THE ECONOMY, AND THE
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UNSTABLE POLITICAL SITUATION.

3. THE SOURCE SAID THAT BANZER HAD ASKED ALFREDO ARCE CARPIO (NOW IN THE US ON A LEADER GRANT) AND FSB LEADER MARIO GUTIERREZ TO ACQUAINT FORMER PRESIDENT VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO (CURRENTLY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO) WITH THIS PLAN AND TO TRY TO ENLIST HIS SUPPORT. (WE

UNDERSTAND FROM A SEPARATE SOURCE THAT GUTIERREZ ALREADY MADE HIS OVERTURE, AND WAS TURNED DOWN -- SEE REFTEL).

4. THE SOURCE ALSO SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT GUTIERREZ WOULD TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON AFTER HIS MEETING WITH PAZ TO EXPLAIN THIS SCHEME AND THE REASONS BEHIND IT TO USG.

5. COMMENT: THE ABOVE INFORMATION JIBES GENERALLY WITH WHAT WE HAVE HEARD ELSEWHERE, BUT MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY ACCURATE. AS REGARDS PARA 4, WE TEND TO DOUBT GUTIERREZ, WHO HAS NO OFFICIAL STANDING IN BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT, WOULD BROACH SUCH AN ALTERNATIVE WITH THE USG.
BOEKER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, BL, (BANZER SUAREZ, HUGO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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